

## PARIS.

## Total Failure of M. Thiers' Mission to Russia.

## The Czar Refuses to Recognize or Receive Him.

## Important Action Determined Upon by the British Cabinet.

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## Reported Bloody Battle Near Paris on Tuesday.

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## German and French Opinion of the Situation in Metz.

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## The City Not So Badly Damaged as Was Supposed.

## THE QUESTION OF PEACE.

## TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

**M. Thiers' Mission to Russia a Total Failure—The Czar Refuses to Receive or Recognize Him—Great Britain Determined Upon Action—A Last Effort for Peace to be Made—No Dismemberment of France—Time for England to Move—Russia Still Arming.**

LONDON, Sept. 30, 1870. The New York Herald correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraphs as follows from that city to-day:

M. Thiers leaves here to-morrow on his return to Vienna, a sadder and a wiser man than before his arrival. The mission he undertook, which was to convince Russia of the great danger to her in suffering Prussia to become too great by the annexation of French territory and the total of uninterrupted victory over France, has entirely failed.

Notwithstanding the earnest and energetic solicitations of the veteran statesman for an interview with the Emperor, his Majesty positively, though politely, declined to see him. Prince Gortschakoff represented to M. Thiers the utter impossibility of recognizing him in any official capacity, or as possessing any official authority, and pointed out the inexpediency of the Russian government holding official intercourse with a person whose avowed mission was to create distrust and enmity on the part of Russia towards friendly Powers.

Since his interview with the Minister M. Thiers has expressed the conviction that France has nothing to hope from Russia.

BERLIN SATISFIED. The complete failure of M. Thiers' mission to St. Petersburg, and the refusal of the Czar to receive him, occasions great satisfaction in Berlin.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE BRITISH CABINET. I have learned from the best authority that at the council of the British Cabinet Ministers held to-day it was determined to make a last and strong appeal to Prussia to consent to peace in consideration of the destruction of all the fortresses in Alsace and Lorraine, but without dismembering France. It is rumored that this position of England has been taken through apprehension that the warlike movements of Russia are inimical to the British empire. This belief occasions a strong disinclination to see the power of France too much broken, as her aid may be needed to check Russian designs in the East. The press, however, expects little good from the Cabinet meeting held to-day on the subject of foreign affairs. "The result," says one of the journals, "must dissatisfy the belligerents and please nobody."

GREAT BRITAIN WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE FRENCH REPUBLIC. From another source I get the following information:—At the Cabinet meeting held to-day the whole subject of the European situation came under discussion. The meeting was fully attended by the ministers. Mr. Henry Bruce, the Home Secretary, urged the importance of such action on the part of England as should associate her with Russia in the pacification of Europe; pointing out the danger of leaving the entire initiative of what he described as "an inevitable interference to a Power which had much interest in depressing and none in enlarging the influence of Great Britain." Earl Granville, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Curdwell, the Secretary for War, were not indisposed to this view, but represented the impossibility of action without recognizing the French republic, which they maintained existed only by the irresponsible act of the "galleries of the Legislative body." The Duke of Argyll, Secretary for India, objected that the Republic had been recognized formally by the United States government, and that it would be a sort of constructive discourtesy to the United States to assume that a government which existed sufficiently and with a sufficient warrant to command American recognition had no sufficient standing in fact to justify treating with and through it for so great an object as the settlement of Europe. The Duke of Argyll dwelt particularly upon the danger of abandoning the settlement of such great questions in Europe to Russia, whose policy in Asia was for so much consequence to the present and the future of Great Britain. Mr. Gladstone inclined to the sentiment of the majority of his colleagues, which is believed to be the sentiment also of Her Majesty, that no government exists in France which can properly be recognized by Great Britain at this time. The advice of the British Minister at Paris, Lord Lyons, was indeed very urgent, in a contrary sense; but the course of the government could not be absolutely determined by a reference to the view of any agent, no matter how well entitled to the confidence and the respect of the

government. The final decision arrived at was that nothing could now be done, as it was not expedient to recognize the only government with which any relations could be at present established in France. This result has excited great dissatisfaction throughout London since it has been known, and new demonstrations are looked for of a more serious character than those already chronicled.

THE FRENCH ENGLAND TO MOVE. The English Ministers met in council to-day, after a long holiday. The nation is impatient at their inaction while their generous ally of twenty years is struggling in her last agony. They will have to move or be driven ignominiously from power. As stated in my despatch of Wednesday, they will adopt the former alternative and take immediate steps to try to prevent the destruction of Paris. Such a catastrophe, if permitted, would dishonor England even more than France. The course of the Cabinet is indicated by a leader in the London Times this morning. It cannot, says the Times, redound to our glory to express an opinion without an intention of enforcing it. It cannot, in the judgment of any person, redound to our glory to abstain from expressing an opinion when demanded of us because we may find ourselves differing from a powerful neighbor. Mr. Bruce's speech at Greenwich about Alsace and Lorraine is equally significant.

## PRUSSIA OBJECTS TO ENGLAND SELLING ARMS TO FRANCE.

At the Cabinet meeting a correspondence was laid before the Ministry which has just taken place between Earl Granville and the Prussian Ambassador, Count von Bernstorff. Count von Bernstorff two weeks ago addressed to Earl Granville a formal complaint against the continued shipment of arms from England to France. To this Earl Granville replied that under the existing laws of England nothing could be done to prevent such shipments, which might be made to one Power as well as to another, and that Parliament alone could change the existing laws. On Wednesday last Count von Bernstorff addressed a second note to Earl Granville specifically stating that the Prussian Embassy had positive evidence of the recent shipment of four hundred cases of arms from Birmingham to France. "This," said Count von Bernstorff, "is certainly no neutrality, as your Excellency's government must be perfectly aware, in the present state of affairs on the continent that these arms are intended for use in the field, at once, against Prussia." To this note Earl Granville replied by requesting Count von Bernstorff to lay the proofs of these statements before Her Majesty's government. Yesterday Count von Bernstorff, with delay, furnished the proof in support of his statements to the British Foreign office. Earl Granville replied by acknowledging the receipt of the Ambassador's last note. No action was taken by the council upon the matter, which rests with the Foreign office.

THE WAR PREPARATIONS IN RUSSIA. Great military activity prevails in all the military departments of Russia. Orders have been issued for the concentration of stores at different points on the frontier. An engineer commission has left St. Petersburg to make an examination of the fortifications of Odessa, with a view of carrying out contemplated alterations.

It is semi-officially announced from St. Petersburg to-day that the military preparations of Russia have no reference to Turkey, but are intended to secure the interests of peace and justice in Europe. This language excites great uneasiness here, confirming as it does the tenor of recent intelligence looking to the intervention of Russia in the Franco-German war.

THE FEELING IN FRANKFORT. A Herald correspondent telegraphs from Frankfurt that the prevailing sentiment there among all classes of people is that the armed fortresses on the German frontiers of France must be retained by Prussia as a guarantee against any future hostile movements on the part of the French, and as a proper price of Lorraine.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE—ARE THEY GERMAN? A despatch received from Cologne says that the Cologne Press Gazette to-day publishes the views of several correspondents on the question of the terms of peace, the writer, while admitting that the prevailing tongue in Alsace is German, calls the editors to task for the statement that the same is true of Lorraine. One of these correspondents, who passed a great part of his life in that province, says the German element is hardly perceptible, and the language is spoken only in a thin belt adjoining the frontier.

DISCOURAGEMENT IN FRENCH OFFICIAL CIRCLES AT TOURS. A private letter from Tours, dated the 27th inst., says the discouragement in official circles is as great as among the people at the defense of Orleans. Cremerieux is packing up, and advises his friends to do the same. He says there are no means for resisting an attack on Tours. The Prussians are expected at Tours in a few days, and the government must move further West.

THE GERMAN REPUBLIC THREATENED. The democrats in Germany are becoming loud in protesting against an unnecessary humiliation of France. The continued arrests for the expression of such sentiments give strength to the current. There is a great dread of refractory tendencies in Prussia among German liberals. They say that should King William proclaim himself Emperor of Germany there will be a republic in Fatherland before five years have elapsed. This is the universal conviction throughout Germany.

## GERMAN UNITY AGAIN POSTPONED.

It has been announced in Berlin that there have been and probably will be no negotiations for an entry of South German States into the Northern Confederation, for the extension of the North German constitution to the Southern German States would have no other issue but imperial absorption.

## THE MILITARY OPERATIONS. GREAT BATTLE BEFORE PARIS.

## TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

**Reported Bloody Battle Near Paris on Tuesday—The Crown Prince Defeated with Great Loss—The Prussian Line of Investment Destroyed—Details of the Engagement.**

LONDON, Sept. 30, 1870. A correspondent telegraphs from Ostend, under date of to-day, the following important intelligence:—

Immense excitement has been caused here this evening by the arrival of special messengers from Valenciennes, bringing the news of a great battle fought on the Seine, on Tuesday, the 27th, which resulted in the complete defeat of the Crown Prince of Prussia under the guns of Mont Valerien. The victory was followed by the evacuation of Versailles and Rambouillet, and the rupture of the German line of investment, the Crown Prince retreating rapidly to the northward in the direction of Pont-à-Mousson and Clermont, upon the army of the King at Meaux and Soissons.

## THE REPORT DENIED FROM BERLIN.

Unofficial German telegrams received from Berlin by way of Brussels contradict this news; but it is certain that the communications between Paris, Brest, Amiens and Valenciennes have been partially reopened, and that official proclamations of the victory of Tuesday, signed by Gambetta, have been received in the latter city.

## CONFIRMATION FROM BOULOGNE.

A correspondent at Boulogne telegraphs me that the exciting news has been received in that city from Rouen of a crowning defeat of the German forces on the south and west of Paris by the army of the Generals Ducrot and Mandinot on Tuesday, the 27th inst. The French forces, which, as previously reported, had driven the Germans out of Clamart, La Roche Chavillon, Bagneux and Boulogne-la-Reine, destroying the fortifications thrown up at those places by the Germans, were heavily re-enforced on Monday by General Trochu.

and advanced upon the German positions at Montreuil and Versailles early Tuesday morning. DETAILS OF THE BATTLE—THE BADEN TROOPS MUTINIED.

The battle began at Troyes and Vesley, the Germans contesting the French advance with desperate energy until they were assailed by fresh columns advancing from beneath the guns of Mont Valerien at St. Cloud, through the Bois de Fontenay and Vanves, when a number of regiments of the Baden troops mutinied on the battlefield and refused to go under fire. Nearly a hundred of these troops were shot by order of the German commander, but the rest still held back, and many of them throwing down their arms dispersed through the forests.

## RETRAIT OF THE GERMANS—THEIR LOSSES.

The Crown Prince was finally compelled to order a retreat upon Bongival, abandoning Versailles to the victorious French. The German columns which attempted the passage of the Seine at Bongival was kept under a terrible fire from Mont Valerien, which converted their retreat into a rout, and they were driven in confusion beyond St. Germain. Night alone stopped the pursuit. The Germans lost 5,000 prisoners, among whom were many officers of the staff of the Crown Prince of Prussia, and fifty cannon and mitrailleurs.

## FEELING IN PARIS.

The road to Orleans and Tours is reopened and cleared of the enemy. The reports from Paris are that the general state of feeling in the capital is excellent, perfect order prevailing, and the morale of the people and troops much improved by the successive victories of General Trochu and the army of defense.

## GENERAL WAR NEWS.

**Increasing Confidence in Paris—Prussians Constructing Works—German Report of the Situation in Metz—Prussian Movement Across the Rhine—General Operations—Barricades in Paris—War Reports from All Parts of Europe.**

LONDON, Sept. 30, 1870. THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent in Paris writes from that city, via balloon mail, under date of the 24th instant, that greater animation and increased confidence have prevailed among the people and soldiers since the successful engagement with the Prussians on the day previous (September 21) at Villejuif, and the brilliant reconnoissance of Admiral Saesset. The artillery of the French was splendidly served and had great effect.

THE PRUSSIAN FORCES are engaged in constructing lines of earthworks at Bagneux. They are also erecting fortifications before Forts Vanores and Issy, on the terrace of Meudon. Their work is, however, necessarily slow, as their working parties are greatly impeded by the French fire.

## A PRUSSIAN VIEW OF THE SITUATION AT METZ.

A Berlin letter from the Herald correspondent states that the masses at the Prussian capital are so classed by the news of the surrender of Strasbourg that they would not be surprised to hear of the early surrender of Metz. Bazaine is reported to have thirty-three regiments of cavalry and sixty-two field batteries, numbering all together thirty thousand horses. It is reported, however, that the repeated unsuccessful sorties have had a depressing effect upon the spirits of the garrison. The rumors regarding the supply of provisions in Metz are so conflicting as to be hardly credible. The magazines are known to contain forage for a large number of horses, although some of the horses have been killed and their riders forced to do service on foot. Bazaine will soon be compelled to make a final effort to break through, for with the loss of his artillery teams the last hope will be gone. The voluntary surrender of the Marshal is regarded in official circles here as most unlikely from his known gallantry and ambitious character. He will doubtless prolong the defense, and gain so valuable a reputation thereby as to obtain prominence under the future government of France.

## ALSAZIAN ARMS TO HOLD OUT SIX MONTHS.

A correspondent at Ostend sends me tonight statement of messenger from Bannar, which contradicts the recent reports of the bad state of the army commissariat at Metz. He reports that the army of Marshal Bazaine, which is encamped around, as well as within the city, and held the Thionville road by the Parte de France, the bridge of Saurly Lodochamp and the bridge of Novoy-le-Veneur, has sufficient provisions within the city for six months, with abundance of food and fresh vegetables. The German armies are inactive, nothing but skirmishes of slight importance having occurred for some time past. The next important recent demonstration was a sortie from the fort of Belle-Croix and Les Bottes, on the road to St. Avois, in which the French captured a few prisoners, and some few lives were lost on both sides.

## PRUSSIAN MOVEMENTS ON THE RHINE.

A special telegram from the Herald correspondent reports that a large force of troops have entered France, crossing the Rhine near Pribourg, close to the Swiss frontier. During the past three days trains have been passing through Frankfurt and night, conveying a fresh corps d'armee, which has hitherto been on duty as a corps of observation on the northern coast. The mission of these soldiers is to occupy upper Alsace (the French department of Haut-Rhin) and to prevent the organization of French new lines.

## EVACUATION OF RAMBOUILLET AND OCCUPATION OF DOUARD.

The Prussians evacuated Rambouillet, seventeen miles southwest of Versailles, on Thursday, and have occupied Douard, eighteen miles southwest of Versailles. It is reported that they have also reached Thionville and Grigneville, in the Department of Meuse-et-Moselle.

## LATER ADVICES FROM PARIS ANNOUNCE THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARRICADES IS VIGOROUSLY PUSHED.

Under the supervision of Henri Rochefort and Gustave Flourens. The Mobiliars have been armed with a new and dreadfully destructive engine. The invention has just been made, and is kept a profound secret. Greater results are expected from this weapon than from the famous mitrailleuse.

## KING WILLIAM RECONNOITRING.

A correspondent telegraphs from Berlin to-day that a despatch from Ferrieres, the royal Prussian headquarters, states that on Thursday the King reconnoitred the French lines from St. Denis to Romaniville.

## THE PRUSSIAN LINE NOT YET BEFORE ORLEANS OR LYONS.

The Prussians have not yet arrived at Orleans. They have desisted from their westward march and seem to be concentrating around Paris. The reported movement of the Prussians on Lyons is also untrue.

## LOSSES OF THE PRUSSIAN IMMENSE.

The French say the Prussian losses since the war began, and particularly at the investment of Paris, have been so immense that the German authorities have taken care to conceal the facts from the newspapers.

REPORTED INSUBORDINATION AMONG THE FRENCH. A telegram just received from Tours contains the following news:—

There is still considerable insubordination in the French army. The officers are apparently unable to prevent disorder and violence among the raw and undisciplined soldiers. Severe examples have been made.

## DISAFFECTION IN LYONS.

The state of affairs at Lyons continues to cause great uneasiness. Cluseret deserves to be shot. He is the greatest enemy that France has, as just now he preaches disunion. United France might still repel the invaders. The red republicans are in the pay of Bismarck.

## ENROLLMENT OF THE FRENCH FIRMEN.

At Tours the firmen are being enrolled. Large numbers of broad-leaves have been distributed to such of the Garde Nationale as had inferior arms. MARSHAL LEBLANC'S OPINION OF THE FRENCH ARMY. According to a statement which appears in L'Unifere, Marshal Leblanc, late Napoleon's chief of staff, sought death in the battles around Metz, and displayed the most reckless valor. He admits that France was unprepared for war, and confesses that he did not dare to tell the Emperor before the war commenced what the state of the army was.

## THE FRENCH NAVY.

A despatch received here from Cherbourg, dated the 29th, says that the greatest part of the French

fleet returned to this port to-day. Squadrons have been left in the North Sea and the English Channel sufficiently large to protect the French coast.

## MORE ABOUT FRENCH IMPERIAL CORRUPTIONS.

We are likely to have a new light thrown on Jucker's operations in Mexico by documents found at the Tuilleries. As it has been always suspected, De Morny made immense sums from them; this appears evident from the facts now turned up, and it will probably appear that De Morny's mistresses had also large slices, for two of them became suddenly millionaires about that time. The incorruptible character of the magistracy under the empire, so much vaunted in the Corps Legislatif, will thus be illustrated by the trial of that judicial hack, Devienne. A republic may not be suited to the French people's temperament, but it does the world good in sweeping out of its Augean stable monarchical and imperial corruption.

## RELIABILITY OF LONDON REPORTS.

The Brussels Independence Belge of to-day says investigation shows that the "telegrams" dated at Brussels, made public through the Lombard street newroom at London, are fraudulent, as they are not wired at Brussels at all.

The same journal also says that the new French government has imposed a special tax of four centimes per number on all newspapers, domestic and foreign.

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS.

The Times correspondent, writing from Luxembourg, says:—Meziere is very strong, but it was not thought it could hold out.

The French prisoners of war have been set at work constructing canals in Hanover.

It is said that the French repulsed the Prussians at Mantes.

Colonel Leslie goes as British Military Commissioner to the Prussian front.

It turns out that the London Imperial organ La Situation is the property of or is supported by Rouher. It is curious that the greatest enemy of the journalists is always starting newspapers.

The town of Kehl is crowded with refugees from Strasbourg, awaiting permission to return to their city.

Great scandals are coming to light from the examination of official documents found in the palace of the Tuilleries. They are of a character implicating the very highest personages in France and other parts of Europe.

## FRENCH SUCCESSES AROUND PARIS—VIRTUAL DEFEAT OF A LEVY EN MASSE—NAPOLÉON'S PRIVATE PAPERS HAVING AN AIRING—EXPENDITURES TO BE CUT DOWN—Miscellaneous Reports.

TOURS, Sept. 30, 1870. The latest news received here from Paris mention a series of successful engagements around the city. The ardor of the besieged had been much increased by these victories. The new breach-loading cannon had been placed on the ramparts.

Additional engagements have taken place around Paris since last reports, in which the French are reported to have obtained fresh successes.

## VIRTUAL DEFEAT OF A LEVY EN MASSE.

The government here will issue a decree to-morrow which devolves upon the prefects of the departments the duty of organizing the mobilized National Guard, which is to be composed of all volunteers and all men between the ages of twenty-one and forty. Those between twenty-one and thirty-five years of age who are subject to military regulations are to remain in the mobilized Guard until the Minister of War calls for them. The decree is in fact a levy en masse. The prefects are authorized to take the arms of the National Home Guard and transfer them to the Mobilized Guard, and also to make demand for private arms wherever found. One article places the companies of France-Tireurs at the disposal of the Minister of War, and subjects them to military discipline in common with the Mobilized Guard. A special article exempts telegraphic employees from military service.

## THE EMPEROR'S PRIVATE PAPERS—WHAT STORIES.

A great number of the private documents belonging to the Emperor, which were recently seized at the Tuilleries by the officers of the new government, have just been made public here in the columns of the official journal of the republic. Many noted persons under the old regime are implicated in the scandals. The provisional government at Paris has already dismissed M. Devienne, the President of the Court of Cassation, he having been shown to be mixed up in the scandalous transactions of the ex-Emperor and Marguerite Belanger.

The Jucker correspondence in relation to Mexico was unearthed, implicating the Duc de Morny and others high in the Emperor's confidence. Besides these there was found a letter from Persigny to Napoleon, proving the existence of a black tribunal, and another from the Queen of Holland, written directly after the battle of Sadowa, warning the Emperor against the very events now occurring. Altogether the disclosures thus far made in regard to the private life of Napoleon have substantiated all the charges that the opposition ever made; and it is thought that the next lot, soon to be published, will be still more scandalous.

## CUTTING DOWN EXPENDITURES.

Late advices from Paris announce that Jules Simon has stopped the pensions to those dramatic writers who needed no assistance. Retrenchments have also been made in the public expenditure by the Minister of Finances by cutting down the salaries of the counselors of State and the prefects of the departments. It is also proposed to reduce the pay of the Ministers. The members of the provisional government have announced that they do not wish any pay for their services. Counting upon the total suppression of the civil list and the Senate, it is expected the saving to the government will reach fifty millions, as will be shown by a comparison of the first budget under the new government with the last under the empire. It is understood the pay of all the high functionaries will be regulated with a view to the strictest economy.

## BEAUREGARD A GENERAL OF FRANCE.

The report is reiterated that General Beauregard, late of the Confederate army, is in the French service. It is stated that he has first accepted a colonel's commission, but that he has since been appointed general, and is at present organizing troops in the south of France.

## MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS.

There are no signs of the enemy in this direction yet.

It is reported that the foreign ambassadors met to-day in consequence of the receipt of important news from M. Thiers.

The government are considering the question of ordering elections for the Constituent Assembly in October, and it is understood that the majority of the Ministers are in favor of the plan.

Arrangements have been made which, if successfully carried out, will give us news from Paris every day.

Lyons is once more quiet, the factions agitation having partially subsided. The government here have taken effectual measures to prevent the renewal of disturbances in that city. A few additional arrests of Cluseret adherents have been made.

The army of the Loire, which is now organizing, will be commanded by General La Mottergue.

General Billard, who escaped d'Am from Strasbourg in disguise, has reached Lyons.

A number of Italian and Spanish volunteers are expected to arrive at Lyons.

The weather continues warm and clear. The water in the rivers is so low that the Prussians easily made across.

A despatch dated Rouen, September 29, says that another balloon from Paris landed near Nantes to-day. The courier, with a multitude of letters and packages, has gone forward to Tours.

## STRASBOURG.

## TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

**A Herald Correspondent's Report of the Last Day of the Siege—The Raising of the White Flag—Enthusiasm of the German Soldiers—A Visit to the City—Its Condition—Sufferings of the Inhabitants.**

LONDON, Sept. 30, 1870.

The following letter has been received here from the New York Herald correspondent, who entered the city of Strasbourg with the German army:—

STRASBOURG, Sept. 29, 1870.

At last, after six weeks spent in earnest endeav-

ors to pierce into Strasbourg from all available points, through powerful field glasses, the final event, which all anticipated and which was never doubted for a moment, has come to pass. We are actually within the walls of the celebrated fortress of Strasbourg.

## THE BREACH IN THE WALLS.

My last letter informed you of the progress which had been made in the siege. I noted you that the maintenance of resistance was impossible much longer. Two outposts had then been taken, and an immense breach was made in the walls soon after. Since then offensive operations had progressed with great strides. From the 24th inst. the bombardment was terrific; it was almost incessant. Night and day nothing was heard save the hollow roar of the cannons and mortars, followed by the sharp noise made by the shells as they burst in mid air over the devoted city and fell upon the devoted defenders. This tremendous cannonading had full effect. A breach was made in the walls large enough to admit an army, and it became evident to everybody that the storming of the place, even if it involved a great sacrifice of life, was inevitable. Continued resistance could only stay the act of capitulation a few hours at furthest, for the Germans had everything prepared and were ready to make the assault.

## THE WHITE FLAG.

It was on Tuesday last, the 27th instant, a few minutes before four o'clock in the afternoon, that the officers and men of the German army beheld the joyful sight of a white flag flying from the famous cathedral. This was speedily followed by the same welcome token from the citadel. A young lieutenant of the Thirty-fourth regiment was the first to discover the emblem of a desire to parley with the besiegers. Firing instantly ceased, and the next moment a sudden and profound silence followed the hitherto steady booming of the artillery.

## ENTHUSIASM OF THE GERMAN ARMY.

General attention being called to the flags by the unusual manner in which they were exhibited, the truth of the situation was at once guessed. Tremendous cheers rose from one portion of the besieging lines. They were caught up and echoed throughout the entire army. At the moment I was at Mundeheim with the officers of a Baden regiment, when the first information was received of the desire on the part of the besieged to treat for surrender. The scene was indescribably exciting. The officers sprang to their feet, embraced each other and clasped one another's hands. The men speedily followed their example and some of them actually shed tears of joy at the great triumph which was about to be achieved. Before long came the news that the surrender was a fact. As the terms of capitulation have already been reported, I need not repeat them.

## A VISIT TO THE CITY.

Yesterday I was fortunately enabled to enter the city with a Baden regiment. The sight was impressive and sad, although its harrowing features were somewhat relieved by the evident joy of the citizens at their release from their terrible condition of suffering and suspense.

## MEETING OF THE HOSTILE COMMANDERS.

The commanders of the German and French forces, Generals Werder and Ulrich met for the first time, yesterday, after the terms of capitulation had been arranged. The meeting took place just inside the gate on the east side of the city. General Ulrich advanced to General Werder, and in a voice much agitated said:—

"I have yielded to an immensely superior force only when further resistance merely involved the needless sacrifice of the lives of my brave men. I have the consolation of knowing that I have yielded to an honorable enemy."

General Werder, who was also much affected, placed his hands on the shoulders of General Ulrich and replied, "You have fought bravely, and the heroism of yourself and your men will receive as much honor from your enemy as it can have from your own countrymen."

## CONVULSION OF THE CITY.

All the arms have been surrendered with the exception of the officers' side arms. I have made a hasty examination of the city. It seems not to have suffered so much from the bombardment as was supposed. The cathedral appears, and doubtless is, much injured, but not sufficiently so to prevent its repair and restoration to the original shape and design. Some five houses in the Place de la Cathedrale have been burned. Here and there are ruins of buildings which show the dangers to which the city has been exposed in the vicinity of the cathedral.

On the east side of the city the destruction is greatest. Here a singular appearance is presented of the inhabitants busily engaged in removing bags of straw, rags, mattresses and every conceivable thing which could be used as a means of stopping unwelcome visitors in the shape of shells. From the windows these unique and hasty defenses are thrown into the streets, where they are scattered about, giving to the localities an appearance of a general removal of the inhabitants.

The ruins of the theatre present a dismal aspect. Among the buildings destroyed is the fine public library. I am informed, however, that the books had previously been removed, or at least those of greatest value.

## WHAT THE PEOPLE SUFFERED.

There does not appear to have been much actual suffering from want of food, though the means in this regard were hushed with the greatest care. The principal cause of anxiety was the confinement and want of good water. Several terrible stories of the mortality caused by the bombardment are reported, but I am inclined to regard them as exaggerations. One family, consisting of a father, two daughters, two young sons and an infant had taken refuge in the cellar of their residence. The house was struck by a shell and set on fire. It was destroyed to all. The unhappy fugitives were burned to death.

One old gentleman, who had been doing business as a merchant in Strasbourg for many years, informed me that his daughter was killed by a fragment of shell while walking in the streets. There are a couple of well authenticated cases, but, as I remarked before, the majority of stories about I believe to be either wholly false or grossly exaggerated.

## FEELING OF THE INHABITANTS—ULRICH'S CONDUCT.

The general feeling of the people is one of great thankfulness that the city has capitulated. The reports spread abroad of the brutality of General Ulrich are utterly destitute of foundation. Everybody in Strasbourg agrees in declaring that his conduct towards the citizens was marked by the greatest humanity and consideration, and all classes are loud in praise of him.

## CONCLUSION.

It is a matter for warmest congratulation that no irreparable damage has been inflicted upon this splendid and interesting city.

I shall hasten to send this